

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 MC-02 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 EUR-12 L-03 /095 W

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R 260800Z AUG 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2299

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, MILI, IZ

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DELEGATION VISITING US

REFERENCES: A. BAGHDAD 672 (NOTAL) B. BAGHDAD 673 (NOTAL)

C. BAGHDAD 768 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TEAM WILL VISIT DALLAS AND CHICAGO IN SEPTEMBER TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS ABOUT BUILDING MILITARY ACADEMY AND CANTONMENTS. MINISTRY IS KNOWN TO BE INTERESTED IN US ARMS PURCHASES BUT FEARS OPEN OVERTURES WHICH WOULD BE REBUFFED. ACTION SUGGESTED: USG CONTACTS WITH GROUP, IF ANY, SHOULD NOT RPT MISLEAD IRAQIS IN REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF ARMS PURCHASES. END SUMMARY.

2. USINT HAS ISSUED BUSINESS VISAS TO FOLLOWING OFFICERS OF GOI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MINDEF):

A. KHALIL IBRAHIM MAHMOUD AGHA - STAFF MAJOR GENERAL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MILITARY WORKS

B. NAFI ABDUL KARIM - BRIGADIER, DIRECTOR OF MILITARY WORKS

C. FAISAL HUSSAIN AL-SHAWI - CIVIL ENGINEER

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D. AHMAD SHIHAB AL-JIBOURI - ENGINEER

E. TARIK A. KARIM SABIR - CIVIL ENGINEER
F. MOHAMMED MUSTAFA - CIVIL ENGINEER.

ALL ARE PART OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY WORKS. NONE
HAVE VISITED THE US BEFORE. NONE ARE KNOWN PERSONALLY
TO USINT OFFICERS.

3. PURPOSE IS TO VISIT SPLAWN-MUNIR AND ASSOCIATES,
INC. IN DALLAS AND PERKINS AND WILL OF CHICAGO (REFTELS) TO
MOVE TOWARD FINAL CHOICE OF FIRM TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT
MILITARY ACADEMY AND MILITARY CANTONMENTS. BLOUNT BROTHERS,
INTERNATIONAL IS ASSOCIATED (THROUGH THEIR TEHRAN OFFICE)
WITH PERKINS AND WILL. BOTH US GROUPS VISITED BAGHDAD
RECENTLY IN PURSUIT OF THESE AND OTHER CONTRACTS AND HAVE
GOOD CHANCE TO WIN AGAINST SWISS AND WEST GERMAN COMPETITION.
VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN MID SEPTEMBER.

4. VISIT COMES AT TIME WHEN MANY RELIABLE SOURCES (INCLUDING
BRITISH EMBASSY MILITARY ATTACHE) HAVE TOLD US THAT IRAQI
MILITARY CONTAINS A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF PRO-AMERICAN
OFFICERS WHO ARE ESPECIALLY EAGER TO REPLACE THEIR RELIANCE
ON EAST EUROPE FOR ARMS BY AN AMERICAN CONNECTION. USINT
HAS HAD NO DIRECT CONTACTS WITH MINDEF ON ARMS AND HAVE
NOT GIVEN ANYONE REASON TO BELIEVE US IS WILLING TO SELL
ARMS TO IRAQ. NONETHELESS, RREPORTS CONTINUE TO COME IN
ON THIS POINT. SO FAR AS WE KNOW PRESENT GROUP HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH ARMS PURCHASES. IT IS A SUBJECT, HOWEVER, ABOUT
WHICH THEY MAY EXTEND FEELERS. GROUP HAS NOT INDICATED
ANY INTEREST IN MEETING WITH USG OFFICIALS BUT WOULD PROBABLY
WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
OR OTHER COUNTERPARTS. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO INITIATE
SUCH CONTACTS, BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND
THE PRESUMPTIVE INTEREST IN ARMS AND MAKE SURE THAT ANY
USG CONTACTS NOT DO ANYTHING TO MISLEAD IRAQIS AS TO WHAT
CURRENT US POSTURE ON ARMS SALES IS. AT THE SAME TME, ANY
INDICATION OF MORE THAN ROUTINE MILITARY COURTESY ON
ENGINEERING MATTERS WOULD APPEAR TO BE A PROPER STEP FORWARD
IN OUR CONTINUALLY IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ.

5. USINT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT ABREAST OF ANY OFFICIAL
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CONTACTS WHICH TAKE PLACE. KILLOUGH

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